measures keeping in view the warning of the International Maritime Organisation in the wake of the rising terrorist threats;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the measures adopted for inspection of cargo before and after shipment; and

(d) whether these measures are delaying the shipment of cargo?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Following the tragic events of 11th September, 2001, the International Maritime Organization adopted new provisions in the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 and the International Code for the Security of Ships and Ports Facilities (ISPS Code) to enhance maritime security. The enhanced security measures will be applicable to foreign going merchant ships and port facilties which will become effective from 1st July, 2004. It has been evaluated that about 200 foreign going ships, 12 major ports and about 30 minor ports in the country are required to comply with the provisions of IMO's ISPS Code. The Government has nominated Director General of Shipping as the "Designated Authority" to oversee the implementation of new security regulations.

(c) and (d) The inspection of cargo in ports is done by Customs Department based on their assessment of the need of doing so. Since the time required for the examination is in the knowledge of the shipper, the cargo is generally brought well ahead of shipment and the examination formalities are completed. Therefore, there is no delay in shipment of cargo.

Development of National Waterway No. 1

1606. SHRI SHANKAR ROY CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to develop the Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly River System (National Watrway No. 1) into a commercially viable waterway system; and

(b) if so, the progress so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) and (b) Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly River system from Allahabad to Haldia has been declared as a National Waterway and basic infrastructure facilities such as navigable channel, navigational aids and terminals have been provided there on to facilitate inland water transport.

Proposal for Gopalpur Port in Orissa

1607. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to make Gopalpur Port in Orissa as all weather port;

(b) if so, the specific steps taken in that regard; and

(c) the assistance extended by Government for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) to (c) Gopalpur port in Orissa is not a major port. As per the provisions of Indian Ports Act, 1908, the responsibility for up-gradation/development of ports other than major ports lies with the State Government concerned, which also have administrative control on such ports.

Ship service from Allahabad to Farakka

†1608. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) by when the ship service from Allahabad to Farakka would start functioning on Ganga river from commercial point of view;

(b) the details of the action taken in this direction; and

(c) the details of the cost of this project along with the amount spent so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) to (c) The river Ganga from Haldia to Allahabad has been declared as a National

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.